

FBI AGENT WHO KILLED VICKI WEAVER CAN BE PROSECUTED

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a Federal court ruled that the FBI agent that killed Vicki Weaver can be prosecuted. Finally, a Federal court with some anatomy. Check the facts. The Department of Justice once again investigating the Justice Department once again concluded that Agent Horiuchi accidentally shot Mrs. Weaver. Accident, my BVDs. Vicki Weaver was shot stone cold right between the eyes while holding her infant child.

Mr. Speaker, the FBI is beginning to look more and more like the KGB. I yield back the fact that if the FBI and Justice Department were not guilty at Ruby Ridge, why did they pay Randy Weaver \$3 million and his wounded friend, Kevin Harris, \$400,000 to shut them up? Think about it.

EVERY TAXPAYER WILL GET A REFUND IN THE MAIL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, for months now pundits have been talking about whether America has been teetering on the brink of a recession. Gross domestic product has fallen from a whopping 7.3 percent in the last quarter of 1999 to just 1.3 percent in the first quarter of this year. The current quarter is a mystery. We do not know if GDP grew or contracted for the second quarter until it is over.

But through all of this, the President has told us if his tax cut package was passed into law, it would provide a much-needed stimulus to the economy. Now it is going to happen. Tomorrow the President signs the bill into law. Every taxpayer will get a refund in the mail and see more take-home pay in their paychecks.

David Wyss of Standard & Poors says, "Roughly half the population is struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. Those folks will use the rebate almost immediately."

Mr. Speaker, this President promised and this President delivered. This Congress promised and this Congress delivered. This should help stimulate our economy; and this, my friends, is good government.

TAX RELIEF IS VICTORY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, tax relief for American families has

been one of my top priorities; so when George Bush ran for President, he made the promise to bring relief to families, and that was like a breath of fresh air.

This year, President Bush laid out specific proposals for tax relief. Some scoffed at the idea of tax relief. Many actively worked to keep Americans from keeping more of their hard-earned tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we have now passed tax relief for American families, and later this summer every American who pays taxes will actually get a tax rebate check. These checks come as a promise kept to the American people and are only the first installment of a long-term tax reduction.

When this tax plan is fully implemented, a typical family of four will see their taxes nearly cut in half. Soon American taxpayers will be keeping more of what they earn. This truly is a victory for American families.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SHOULD BE PUT IN MOTHBALLS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to take a brief moment and address some of the concerns of shipping and storing nuclear waste.

Recently, a former DOE official publicly announced that plans for a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain should be abandoned. Mr. W. Kenneth Davis, Energy Undersecretary from 1981 to 1983, had supported the Yucca Mountain repository site under the Reagan administration. But now, Mr. Davis maintains that shipping deadly nuclear waste across the country to Yucca Mountain should not occur. He said, "Yucca Mountain, which is unlikely to be licensed, is unreasonable in view of the shipping required, if nothing else, and in my opinion should be put in mothballs."

Mr. Speaker, shipping nuclear waste across America to Yucca Mountain endangers the lives of every American. Let us heed Mr. Davis' advice, and put the plan for Yucca Mountain in mothballs, where it belongs. There is not enough time in 1 minute to name all of the dangers of shipping nuclear waste across America or to list all of the dangerous plans of storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. This will be addressed as we further debate this issue.

MILITARY MANEUVERS BY PRC AND PLA APPEAR TO THREATEN TAIWAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House today to call my

colleagues' attention to the recent military maneuvers by the People's Republic of China and the People's Liberation Army that appear to threaten Taiwan.

The PLA's response to nearly every political development seems to be to increase its military posture. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what is the People's Republic of China afraid of. To my knowledge during the modern era, there has never been a credible threat to the security of mainland China. The amphibious military training maneuvers currently underway are similar to 1996 exercises that resulted in a missile launch aimed at the Taiwan Straits. You may recall that the U.S. responded to that launch by deploying an aircraft carrier to the region. Now, as then, the United States is committed to stability in the region.

The threatening nature of these recent maneuvers and their proximity to Taiwan challenges the territorial stability of the island and long-term peace of the region. It is written that it is for freedom that He set us free. Let China hear that in this Congress we will stand with those who will stand for liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in monitoring the conduct of the Chinese military in the coming weeks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NARVELL L. ARNOLD, CONGRESSIONAL PAGE

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate my congressional page, Narvell L. Arnold. This is the first time I have had an opportunity to nominate a congressional page. I am very pleased. Narvell attends John F. Kennedy High School in my congressional district. In fact, just this week I was at John F. Kennedy High School speaking with his principal and counselor. I am so pleased that Narvell, who is captain of the football team, the captain of the basketball team, had an opportunity to be a part of a number of community programs: the Urban League Career Beginnings and another program called Look Up to Cleveland. Narvell, you have made me very, very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that Narvell's future years as a student and politician will be great. And to all of the rest of the congressional pages, it has been wonderful having them. I know they will enjoy their summer.

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A VICTORY FOR HARDWORKING TAXPAYERS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, families are overtaxed, businesses are overregulated, and our economy is suffering as a result. Clearly there is room within the enormous tax surplus to pay down the debt and fund priority programs while ensuring working families receive the tax relief they both need and deserve. Full, fair, and immediate tax relief has been and will continue to be one of my top priorities here in Congress.

The easiest thing to do in Washington is to increase spending. One of the hardest things to do is to reduce taxes. But thanks to the President's steadfast leadership, hardworking taxpayers will get the significant tax relief they deserve.

Already this session of Congress, the U.S. House has passed key tax relief proposals, including repeal of the death tax, marriage penalty tax relief, and the expansion of the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, our new President has been in the White House just over 100 days and already we have helped him to deliver this incredible tax relief package to the American people. This is not only a victory, it is a victory accomplished with incredible speed. Within this year, hardworking Americans across this Nation will be benefiting from more dollars in their pockets.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around us at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. Members of Congress and the public need to better understand the tremendous contribution the construction industry makes to our Nation's economy.

The value of construction put in place in the United States for the year 2000 was over \$800 billion, about 8.25 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives and to bring a pro-construction perspective to Congress, I believed it was necessary to start the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of Congress and staff on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction, to increasing access to training in the construction trades.

I urge all of my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus.

FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS NEED TO BE SPEEDED UP

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in this week's National Journal, Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, calls the number and length of FBI background checks "insane."

I read in Insight Magazine last week that only 55 nominees for sub-Cabinet positions have been confirmed out of 436 positions.

Paul Light of the Brookings Institution's Presidential Appointee Initiative was quoted as saying that the Bush administration will be "lucky" to have these positions filled by March 1 of next year.

In other words, the Bush administration, which is already being blamed for problems that started long before it came into office, will not really have its people in upper-level positions until well over a year after the President was sworn in. This is ridiculous.

Mr. Ornstein said most of the 1,250 top positions should have a simple, quick computer background check.

I read in the Knoxville News-Sentinel that even Senator Howard Baker who spent 18 years in the Senate and 2 years as chief of staff at the White House had to fill out a detailed 85-page questionnaire, one question of which was, "Have you ever been involved in a controversial issue?"

Mr. Speaker, this process has become ridiculously bureaucratic and needs to be greatly speeded up.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1000) to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in the State of Ohio, to authorize an exchange of land in connection with the historic site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1000

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. EXCHANGE OF LANDS AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, OHIO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term "historic site" means the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio, established pursuant to Public Law 91-132 (83 Stat. 273; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Proposed Boundary Map, William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio," numbered 448/80,025, and dated November 2000.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) EXCHANGE.—The Secretary may acquire a parcel of real property consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Exchange Parcel (Outside Boundary)", in exchange for a parcel of real property, also consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Current USA Ownership (Inside Boundary)".

(2) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the values of the parcels to be exchanged under paragraph (1) are not equal, the difference may be equalized by donation, payment using donated or appropriated funds, or the conveyance of additional land.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARY.—The Secretary shall revise the boundary of the historic site to reflect the exchange upon its completion.

(c) ADDITIONAL BOUNDARY REVISION AND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) INCLUSION OF PARCEL IN BOUNDARY.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the historic site is revised to include an additional parcel of real property, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Acquisition".

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire the parcel referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(e) ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—Any lands acquired under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the historic site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1000, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), would authorize the Secretary of Interior to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio. This site commemorates the only man to serve as